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# TIMES-VIRGINIAN

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*For Town*

## Cable woes resurface

By BILL SHERROD

The Appomattox Town Council Monday night authorized Town Manager Bill Britton to take "Whatever action necessary" to initiate proceedings for termination of the Arco Cablevision franchise in Appomattox.

Britton informed the Council that Stanley Deimler, owner of Arco, has not accepted the written notification of the town's intent to cancel the franchise. "It's still in the post office in Pennsylvania," according to Britton.

He noted that, according to the cablevision franchise, Deimler must receive due notification of the town's intent to pull the franchise before cancellation proceedings may begin.

Councilmen instructed Britton to take the necessary action for notifying Deimler, whether that action be having a sheriff serve the notification papers or using an order of publication.

In another matter, the councilmen authorized a public hearing to discuss a request by Carolyn Page to turn the Old George's Auction Building into an amusement center.

The building, on Route 460 across from Courtland Manufacturing, would under Page's proposal, house amusements such as pinball machines, computer games, and possibly a short-order item restaurant.

The public hearing was set for 7:30 p.m. June 9. Page was told she needed to provide full details of what she proposes for the amusement center at the hearing.

In other business, the council members agreed to allow the fledgling Red House Fire Department to use the town baseball park Aug. 7-9 free of charge, in order to raise funds for purchasing fire equipment.

Julie Austin, representing the RHVFD, said the organization is planning a softball tournament, and proceeds from the tournament would be used to benefit the department.

Councilmen agreed to allow use of the field during the specified period of time, and to waive the normal fee of $25 per night for the benefit of the softball tournament.

The councilmen also voted to allow free use of the ball park this summer for softball tournament to benefit the Appomattox County Cold Homes Program.

Milton Lambert, who is planning the fundraising event, appeared before the council to ask permission for use of the facility for the tournament, as well as a music show.

The council members pointed out that the music show would have to be cleared through the county Board of Supervisors, since the county has an ordinance regulating such functions.

Lambert said he would appear before the Supervisors at their next meeting to request permission to hold the music show.

The Councilmen also approved the new town code, with a single amendment, which will raise the water-use deposit for renters from $15 to $25.

AT THE NATIONAL BLOODHOUND ASSOCIATION held last week at the Holiday Lake 4-H Camp, there were some guests other than law enforcement officers and dogs. Shown above are, left to right, William R. Britton, Jr., Appomattox Town Manager; Dr. Clarik Jones, District Extension Office, ; Don Jimson, Center Director; Becky Shaffer, Secretary of the organization; Ronald C. Spiggle, Mayor of Appomattox; Gene Richardson, Appomattox County Sheriff and Luther Wingfield, Mayor of Kenbridge and kneeling in fron it Sgt. James F. Whitlow of the Kenbridge Police and "Bo", a trained bloodhound who will be three years old in July. Members of the Kenbridge Police Department were hosts for the week-long meeting. (Photo By Frances H. Paulette.)

National Bloodhounds Association

## Bloodhounds gather at Holiday Lake

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

The Holiday Lake 4-H Center was no place for misbehaving last week when members of 54 sheriff departments and correctional units representing 18 states and two Canadian Provinces met for the National Bloodhounds Association.

The organization, which was organized in 1962 holds two meeting each year and all members are in some way affiliated with law enforcement. The total membership includes 32 states and two Canadian Provinces, Ontario and Quebec.

The Kenbridge, Virginia Police Department was host for the occasion with Sgt. James F. Whitlow of Kenbridge acting as spokesman.

President of the organization is Bill Grimm of West Virginia, and he had this to say, "I would like to see every state represented because I believe every police department needs bloodhounds; we have bloodhounds that run the streets of New York."

Approximately 60 dogs were present for the spring training meeting. Some of the dogs were in the beginning stages of training, some in the intermediate stage and quite a few dogs were fully trained.

Sgt. H. C. Hall of the Albermarie County Sheriff's Department was among law enforcement officers attending. With him was "Glaser" a six month old bloodhound weighing approximately 65 pounds. "Glaser" is the fourth bloodhound Hall has trained.

"I believe bloodhounds are a really great asset to any police department. They have helped us find lost elderly people, a lost child. We have used bloodhounds to solve breaking and entering cases, stolen automobile cases and even in rape cases," said Hall.

Hall related an incident where a man, 89, was lost in his county for 31 hours; it had rained approximately two and one-half hours and a 40 mile wind was blowing. When asked if he thought the bloodhound could locate the man he replied, "in conditions such as these there is about one chance in a million, but we'll give it a try."

The only article belonging to the lost man was a flashlight that had been dropped as he was going into the woods. Even though conditions were not conducive to tracking, the dog kept at it until the man was found, lying face down in a puddle of water. His legs were frozen but he was alive; following treatment he recovered from the ordeal.

"Had it not been for the bloodhound," commented Hall, "I don't believe the man could have been found in time."

Leslie Darr, a Deputy Sheriff with the Maries County Sheriff's Department, of Maries County, Missouri attended the meeting with his bloodhound, 'Honeysuckle Rose.' The dog is owned personally by Darr but used by the department.

"All bloodhounds have a good nose," says Darr. "The way I chose my puppy was simple. I just 'snuck' out to where the puppies were and the puppies will 'wind' you and come at you. The one that does that most often.....the one that is the snoopiest, that's the one I chose." Darr, who is a member of the city council in Vienna, Missouri enjoys training and handling bloodhounds. At about eight weeks, his bloodhound was catching his children as part of the early training.

During the stay of the group in the county, handlers brought the dogs into town and they demonstrated the tracking down process.

Mayor Ronnie Spiggle went into the area beyond the parking lot of Armstrong Furniture Corporation and hid. A bloodhound was allowed to 'sniff' Spiggle's car then allowed to pursue the object of his search. In a few minutes, the dog had found Spiggle.

Bloodhounds, becoming increasingly important in the field of law enforcement.

## Budget cuts affect road work plans

By BILL SHERROD

Concern generated by a continuing decrease in funds available for highway improvements was expressed at the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors' meeting Friday.

T. E. Pittman, state highway engineer in Appomattox, noted that money budgeted for improvements to roads in Appomattox has been decreasing steadily over the past three years. This year, he said, the funds allocated for road improvements in Appomattox were cut 40 percent, in comparison with last year's budgeted funds.

Pittman noted that the decrease in highway-improvement funds is due to a marked drop in state gas-tax revenues.

"People are conserving gas by driving less, and they are driving cars that are more fuel efficient," according to Pittman.

He noted that, for the first time ever, the highway department has had to lay off personnel. No one working for the highway department in Appomattox County has been laid off, however.

What this means for residents of Appomattox County is that there will be less funds for road improvements, and, consequently, less chance that small, less travelled roads will be improved.

The department takes the position that the budgeted money we do have should be used to try to attract federal funds," Pittman said. Projects such as bridge improvements would be eligible for federal funding while improvements to dead-end roads and other routes which receive limited use would be less likely to receive federal funding.

In a related matter, Pittman noted that a proposed road-improvement project for Road 605 has been moved to the top of the county's road-improvement priority list. The supervisors had requested that the project, which was removed removed from the top of the priority list last year because of a lack of needed rights-of-way, be moved back to the top of the list after requests from residents of that road.

The board approved the road-improvements priority list following Pittman's notification of the Road 605 priority.

In other business, board members were told by Lloyd Walton, superintendent of schools in the county, that T. M. Sweeney, Inc., had submitted the low bid for work to be done on the Appomattox Middle School.

Walton said that bid, for $56,718 was considerably lower than the engineer's estimates of the cost of the project, which was $80,000 or more.

Walton added that the construction firm says the work can be completed in 60 days after it's started, and said the firm will attempt to begin work as soon as school lets out.

Walton also received permission from board members to release teachers' contracts for the coming year.

## Canine confinement begins

Dog owners in Appomattox County must keep their animals confined in their lot or yard from May 15 to June 15, according to Barbara Williams, clerk of the Circuit Court.

The 30-day confinement period is a law enacted by the Board of Supervisors which is in effect each year.

Any dogs found roaming during the confinement period will be taken to the pound, according to Williams.

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY and this mule, confined in a pastures just outside of town didn't have a thing to do but pose for a picure! (Photo by Allen Austin)

## Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

There were many smiling faces Monday morning, as we had been blessed with rain. Maybe not all we needed for this time of year, but enough to let us know we had not been forgotten. The underground water level must be very low. I like fresh flowers in the living room and lately that means bearded Iris. Now have Mock Orange, a name I do not understand because mine is not orange but white. What's next I do not know, for nothing I planted has had time to sprout much less bloom. Crape myrtle is in bud so maybe that's it. En route to my garden spot Saturday I came upon Pete the teadfrog. I figured he was thirsty so fetched the garden hose and baptized him. Some experts keep a graden chart so they will know what is planted where. I do not, but if what North Carolina.

comes up is in a row, let it be. Saturday I was assaulted just outside my basement door. Had just seen some sort of bee's nest under construction against a beam, so got a broom handle and knocked it down, a deed stoutly resented by said bees. I did not have time to see if they were bumble bees, hornets or yellow jackets for quickly I became a swell head. They say tobacco juice is good treatment for bites, so I watered some pipe tobacco, applied it and it helped. Ah yes, never a dull moment this time of year. I spotted the first housefly of the season on the back porch. A swatter was handy, but I chose to give the fly a verbal lecture about trespassing and going where you are not invited, and when last seen said fly was headed off in the general direction of

Big goings on at our schools as the session nears its end, and we repeat a salute to students, teachers and family.

• • •

Thanks. A friend sent me a gift of some jellybeans of the variety our President likes.

• • •

Appomattox, town and county, looks neater after an anti-litter effort. But it is a never ending project and everybody plays on the first team.

• • •

Philip Nolan. Who he? He died Aug. 13, 1863 and the story of his life was told in Edward Everett Hale's famous classic, The Man Without A Country. You will appreciate America more if you look up and read this book. I have just finished re-reading it.

• • •

Bro. Gerald Wilbun was telling me that his late father told him that May 15 was soon enough to set out tomato plants. Probably correct, for I lost nearly all of the ones I planted last week. Gerald is the newly elected president of Appomattox Lions Club and heads a fine slate of new leaders in this civic group. I would nominate Murrell Ferguson as the record holder for having the same office longest in a local civic club. He is Lions secretary-treasurer and a good one.

• • •

There is an expression, "As American as Apple Pie." Okeh. But how about As American as hot dogs, hamburgers, square dancing, fox hunting, Mother's Day, Nashville music, supermarkets, the Super Bowl, the world series, Peace at Appomattox. Thanks for reading and seeya around.

## Ruth Webb chosen

Ruth H. Webb, a member of the Appomattox County School Board, has been elected to serve as president of the Southern Region of the Virginia School Boards Association for the next year. In this capacity, Mrs. Webb will have an active role in planning activities for the Southern Region and in contributing to the program of the state organization.

A graduate of Roanoke College, Mrs. Webb has taught school in Roanoke and Appomattox Counties. Since 1973 she has served as a member of the Appomattox County School Board.

*In Appomattox*

## Poppy Day set

Appomattox citizens will again this year be asked to wear a red memorial poppy on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23. Each year Americans observe Poppy Day which is a voluntary tribute to our dead and disabled servicemen.

By accepting one of these poppies from a member of the American Legion Auxiliary or some other volunteer we aid the living victims of the past wars while honoring our dead. The poppy grew in the battlefields of France and Belgium where American servicemen have fallen during two World Wars. In the years following the first World War the poppy came to be recognized as nature's tribute to the war dead, and it was soon adopted as The American Legion and Auxiliary's official memorial flower.

The poppies you will wear on Poppy Day have an even greater significance than the flowers which bloomed on the battlefields of Europe. These memorial poppies you will be offered have been made in hospitals and workshops where the suffering of war still exists. The disabled veterans who make these flowers are able to gain a dual benefit from their work the poppy program gives many men their only opportunity to support themselves and their families; and it offers them a productive pastime with which to combat long hours in the hospital wards.

Volunteers who offer the poppies to the public - unlike the disabled veterans - receive nothing tangible for their work. However, these workers gain satisfaction from their contribution to a program which honors the war dead while assisting the living. Money dropped into contribution boxes in exchange for poppies goes directly to the welfare activities of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary; all funds are used for the aid of disabled veterans, their families, and the families of deceased servicemen.

Understanding the character and purpose of Poppy Day, would any of us wish to ignore this appeal? I am sure all of us will consider it a privilege to wear a poppy again this year on Poppy Day.

## Lions meet Thursday

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet on Thursday evening, May 14 at 6:30 at the John Mosby Inn.

Don Williams of Armstrong Furniture will be guest speaker.

All members are urged to attend.

UNDER THE SPREADING CHESTNUT TREE- Horse Chestnut or Buckeye, which was in full bloomin bocated in the yard of Russell Bryant at Vera. He bought the property, known as the Old Abbitt Place in 1960. Bryant, who believes the tree is approximately 50 years old, says the tree is a bit over 45 feet in height and estimates the spread of branches to be 45 feet across. Bryant, shown in the lower right hand corner of the picture seems 'dwarfed' by the beautiful tree.

MAY